



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

Sierra Club North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114

March 8, 2022

House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee

Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for:

- **[HF1130](#) (Tabke) - Cities authorized to adopt pesticide control ordinances.**
- **[HF1150](#) (Hansen) - Registration for pesticides containing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance prohibited.**
- **[HF1317](#) (Hansen) - Terms defined; Use, storage, disposal, and sale of pesticide-treated seed regulated; label statements for pesticide-treated seed required; consumer guidance required; rulemaking required; and money appropriated.**
- **[HF1497](#) (Pursell) - False labeling of pesticide-treated plants as pollinator friendly prohibited.**
- **[HF2472](#) (Hansen) - New program for systemic pesticide-treated seed established, new account in agricultural fund established, and money appropriated.**

Dear Chair Vang, Vice Chair Pursell and all other Committee Members:

Founded in 1968, the Sierra Club North Star Chapter is a non-profit environmental organization representing over representing over 50,000 members and supporters across Minnesota. The Sierra Club works to safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and litigation.

As a leading grassroots voice working to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment, we empower volunteer leaders to act through environmental advocacy, community organizing, and outdoor exploration. We participate in the administrative process to encourage environmental health and sustainability, long term wildlife and habitat protection, and biodiversity goals.

As part of those actions, it has been the work of the Sierra Club nationwide to help prevent the degradation of “Wildlife and Native Plants” along with harms to people which is why we support efforts to either ban or restrict the use of certain harmful pesticides in Minnesota and the United States which other government entities, countries and even continents such as Europe have wisely begun doing, too.

Among the Sierra Club’s stated policy and goals in Minnesota and across the country as posted on our national website are achieving much more support and protection for pollinators (<https://www.sierraclub.org/grassroots-network/food-agriculture/pollinators>) as well as for all wildlife

and native plants through rehabilitation and restoration of degraded natural landscapes and habitats (which pesticides can greatly harm and which also overlap rural, urban and suburban communities):

Sierra Club Policy on Wildlife & Native Plants – Top Points 1 and 2
(<https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/wildlife/wildlife-and-native-plants>)

The key to wildlife and native plant conservation is the continued existence of diverse natural ecosystems and the preservation of native biodiversity. The Sierra Club is committed to maintaining the world's remaining natural ecosystems, and, where feasible, to the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems. Wildlife, plants, and their ecosystems have value in their own right, as well as value to humans and to the health of the biosphere.

1. Habitat -- Habitat simplification, fragmentation, degradation, and elimination pose the greatest threats to natural ecosystems and biodiversity and must be counteracted by reasonable and effective measures for the long-term preservation of intact ecosystems. Such measures should be incorporated into decisions made by all levels of government. All society should help develop and implement wildlife and native plant conservation measures that protect ecosystems and our wildlife heritage.
2. Wildlife and Native Plant Management -- Within natural ecosystems, natural diversity and abundance of wildlife and plants should be ensured by means that involve a minimum of overt human interference. Ecosystems modified by human activities should be managed to ensure optimum native diversity and numbers of wildlife and plants to natural historic levels where feasible, with emphasis on restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems to a more natural condition.

Several of the already completed Minnesota, national and global studies that show the presence and harmful impacts of neonicotinoids (“neonics”) — for just one pesticide example — were very helpfully listed in the Minnesota Environmental Partnership’s important Letter of Support dated January 10, 2023 for House File 206 (<https://www.house.mn.gov/comm/docs/UUf99IJfaEuN2Td8s1ZhVg.pdf>). That letter was submitted by their Pollinator and Wildlife Coalition of which the Sierra Club North Star Chapter is a member, in addition to being an Associate Member of MEP’s entire organization among so many other members (<https://www.mepartnership.org/our-members/>).

For the reasons described above, we at the Sierra Club North Star Chapter look forward to speedy passage of Minnesota laws this session that will help our state and local governments, agencies and all to better understand, prevent and help reverse the harmful impacts of many pesticides on ecosystems, wildlife & people.

Thank you,

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Including the following:

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